

TO INHERIT, TO ENTRUST, TO PROTECT ...
A PIECE OF BUCHAREST BETWEEN
CĂLĂRAȘI ROAD AND
THE POPA SOARE STREET

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Abstract: The north-eastern corner of the crossing between the Călărași¹ Road and the Popa Soare² Street is furnished with historical monuments, both properties, *i.e.* the one at 59 former Vergului Route and the one bearing the number 2-4 on the subordinate traffic way, being listed. As a matter of fact, the whole neighbourhood stands out for its cultural values, which determined the experts in 1990 to claim an architectural reservation (according to the 68/1994 government order, adopted as the 41/1995 law), *i.e.* an urban fabric fragment that has preserved its street network and a building stock that also requests legal status as historical monument. Eventually, this district has been divided among protected areas, as one of the above-mentioned properties was included, for obvious reasons, into the one concerning the Călărași Road and the other into the one bearing the name of Sfântul Ștefan³ Street. Still, a recent research of the adjoining property, in 61 Călărași Road, has identified relationships between the three properties so special that they may reveal new meanings of the historical monuments category (legally) defined as “ensemble”. Moreover, more than any other case study, this triad mirrors a history that is also about the (true) right to inherit as well as about the derived responsibilities, including that of entrusting, topics approached by the 20th symposium „Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie” / “Architecture. Restoration. Archaeology”.

Rezumat: Cadrul de NE al intersecției dintre Calea Călărași și strada Popa Soare din București este mobilat integral cu monumente istorice, ambele proprietăți, și anume cea cu numărul poștal 59 de pe axa urbană cunoscută cîndva drept Podul Vergului, respectiv cea cu numerele poștale 2 și 4 de pe artera subordonată, fiind clasate. De altfel, acest areal se distinge prin valori culturale care au determinat cercetarea de profil să susțină încă din anul 1990 instituirea unei rezervații de arhitectură (conform ordonanței 68/1994, aprobată prin legea 41/1995), în sensul unei porțiuni de țesut de așezare în care s-au menținut traseele de circulație și un fond construit cu calități care reclamă statutul juridic de protecție specific monumentelor istorice. După cum este cunoscut, în final, în partea respectivă de oraș au fost instituite două zone construite protejate, în condițiile în care primul dintre imobilele menționate a fost inclus (evident) în cea aferentă Căii Călărași, iar al doilea în cea ce poartă numele străzii Sfântul Ștefan. O cercetare recentă însă, dedicată proprietății învecinate, de la numărul poștal 61 din Calea Călărași, a permis identificarea unor relații suficient de

aparte între cele trei imobile pentru a pune într-o lumină nouă categoria de monument istoric numită „ansamblu” (definită conform legislației în vigoare). În plus, mai mult decît orice alt studiu de caz cunoscut, triada în cauză ilustrează o istorie în care este vorba despre ceea ce înseamnă (în fapt) dreptul la moștenire dar și obligațiile care decurg din aceasta, inclusiv cea de a dăru, aceste aspecte numărîndu-se printre cele abordate de a 20-a ediție a simpozionului „Arhitectură. Restaurare. Arheologie”.

One fence and two properties?

The 1990 issue of Buletinul Comisiei Monumentelor Istorice / The Newsletter of the Commission for Historical Monuments comprises an article of Doina Măndru⁴ on what was meant to be, at that time, one of the genuine architectural sanctuaries of Bucharest *i.e.* whole parts of urban fabric which, being culturally valuable, were supposed to be listed as historical monuments.⁵ The text approaches the area served (mainly) by the Călărași Road and the streets Mântuleasa, Popa Soare (Priest Soare), Plantelor (Plants) and Negustori (Traders), an area which, in the end, has been “assigned” to several protected areas. At any rate, the first two properties considered by Doina Măndru as being the most representative for this corner of the town and, consequently, the first two analysed are those located on 59 and 61 Călărași Road. Regarding the first, which is placed precisely on the north-eastern corner of the intersection between the latter and Popa Soare Street, the main building is attributed (most probably by mistake) to architect M. Bucholtz,⁶ while in that which regards the second, to be found to the West, the owners

⁴ Măndru 1990.

⁵ The type of historical monument called “architectural sanctuary” is mentioned as such in G.O. 68/1994, adopted as Law 41/1995.

⁶ Măndru 1990, p. 57, in the caption of image 1 – although the text (p. 56) mentions the architect M. Bucholtz as the 1887 author of the edifice in 1bis which is defined as the E. Bacaloglu home. As such and with the same mailing address, the work of Bucholtz is also included in Mucenic 1997, p. 56 (under Bucholtz, builder). Nevertheless, the design of Bucholtz from 1887 for 1bis Popa Soare Street (http://www.arhivacezaramucenic.rhbillage.ro/?post_type=product&s=Popa+Soare%2C+nr.+1bis) was probably meant for the nowadays postal number 11, this hypothesis being suggested by the unusual shape of the plot (the building having been either changed or replaced). As a consequence, on the north-western corner of the crossing between Călărași Road and Popa Soare Street (where Doina Măndru places, by mistake, the edifice by Bucholtz), *i.e.* on 57 Călărași Road, the main edifice has rather resulted from the design from 1875 for a certain Alexandru B. Danușil (http://www.arhivacezaramucenic.rhbillage.ro/?post_type=product&s=Vergu+nr.+43).

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¹ Călărași meaning riders.

² Popa Soare meaning Priest Soare.

³ Sfântul Ștefan meaning Saint Stephen.